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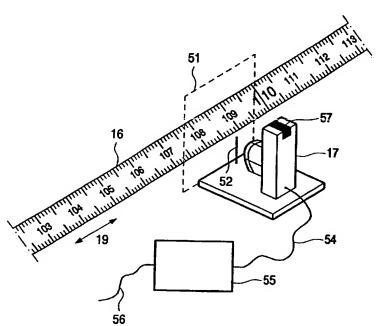
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(54) Title: OPTICAL ENCODER



2004/008077 A1 (57) Abstract: The invention relates to an apparatus, notably an X-ray apparatus, which comprises two components which are displaceable relative to one another. A position visualization unit is arranged on one component of the apparatus and the other component of the apparatus is provided with an image acquisition unit whose acquisition zone contains a segment of the position visualization unit which changes due to the motion. The image acquisition unit acquires images of the segment present in the acquisition zone and applies such images to an evaluation unit which extracts position information from the images.